INTERACTION OF PHOSPHATIDYLCHOLINE WITH β-LACTOGLOBULIN

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ABSTRACT FOR LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

We have studied the effect of pH on the characteristics of the protein-lipid vesicle complex formed between solvent denatured β-lactoglobulin and phosphatidylcholine. Below the isoionic point of β-lactoglobulin (pH 5.2), the vesicles are protected against fusion ~~or~~ by the presence of the protein.. These suspensions were clear and the protein in them showed a higher proportion of helical structure than did native β-lactoglobulin. At higher pH, the protein caused aggregation of the vesicles as observed by electron microscopy and their tendency to form pellets on centrifugation. We conclude that both electrostatic and hydrophobic interactions are involved in this complex formation.

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